

Goza & Honnold Newsletter

With the new year underway, we would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your generous referrals in 2017 and to share with you some of our latest firm and litigation news. Last year was an exciting one for us, as we added new faces to our firm and reached some important milestones in our practice.



Lisa R. Joyce, Esq.

Lisa Joyce joined Goza & Honnold in November 2017 and has quickly taken a key role in managing the firm's mass tort practice. Lisa has an extensive products liability and complex litigation background, having worked on mass torts like Yaz, Yasmin, and Ocella birth control, as well as testosterone replacement therapy, Risperdal, IVC filters, and transvaginal mesh. Her widespread experience with defective drug and medical device cases, as well as lien resolution, make Lisa an integral part of our team.

Jacob Adair came to Goza & Honnold in September 2017 upon completion of a two-year clerkship with the Honorable Alok Ahuja at the Missouri Court of Appeals. During law school, Jacob worked at the EEOC and the Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing Opportunity Council, and brought his passion for helping people to our firm. Jacob currently focuses on medical negligence, nursing home, and general tort cases, where his research and writing skills have already proved extremely valuable.



Jacob M. Adair, Esq.

Many of our friends have asked about the kind of work we are doing. We continue to handle a variety of personal injury cases, including medical malpractice, accident, and products liability litigation. We have also expanded our mass tort practice and are playing a significant role in a number of MDL cases.

We consistently monitor medical, scientific, and regulatory developments related to pharmaceutical and medical device products and are always willing to discuss or evaluate cases in which individuals believe they have been harmed by prescription drugs or medical devices. What appears to be an isolated incident is sometimes really part of a developing problem with a product. Here are some highlights of the firm's latest work:

Medical Malpractice:

Goza & Honnold continues to emphasize its work in complex and catastrophic injury medical malpractice cases. During the last two years, we have successfully resolved multiple wrongful death and brain injury cases, including two unique birth injury cases involving external fetal version causing a severe umbilical cord compression and a failed diagnosis of an acute placental abruption.

Throughout our years litigating these cases, we have seen increasing numbers of claims involving bleeding complications from mismanagement of anticoagulants (including the newer agents such as Pradaxa, Xarelto, and Eliquis), hospital falls, failure to adequately monitor hospital patients, drug interactions, and birth trauma - especially babies born with neurologic injury resulting from lack of oxygen during the labor and delivery process. We are happy to evaluate or work with you in evaluating your malpractice cases.



Prescription Opioids:

In 2018, we plan to devote significant energy to investigating cases related to the national opioid crisis. In the past, Goza & Honnold has handled cases related to mismanagement of fentanyl, morphine, dilaudid and other strong pain medicines in both the inpatient and outpatient settings. We have resolved multiple wrongful death cases involving pain medication mishaps.

Despite concerns raised by health experts, many physicians have seemingly increased the use of prescription opioids for “off-label” use, sometimes at the encouragement of the drug manufacturer. Given the strength of many of these drugs and the potential for improper patient selection, dosing, and use, certain patients may be at high risk for injury, including respiratory events, accidental overdose, addiction, and death. We are prepared to help you review your opioid inventory or investigate your referral cases.



Inferior Vena Cava Filters:

Goza & Honnold will continue working on IVC Filter cases this year. An IVC filter is a small, umbrella-like device inserted into one of the largest veins in the body (the inferior vena cava). It is used in patients who are at high risk of pulmonary embolism. The filter is intended to be placed temporarily to prevent blood clots from entering the heart, lungs, or brain by catching the clots in the bloodstream and allowing them to break down over time. However, the filters are known to fracture, migrate, puncture, and result in significant retrieval complications and injury. We have filed a number of IVC cases and is investigating many others. We would be happy to discuss these cases with your firm.

Talcum Powder:

Our firm currently represents numerous women who have developed ovarian cancer associated with the long-term use of talcum powder. Plaintiffs have won several multi-million dollar verdicts arising from the use of talcum powder and the development of certain kinds of ovarian cancer. The potential link between talcum powder and ovarian cancer seems to have been known to the industry for many years, and yet these products were aggressively marketed without a cancer warning. We are pursuing litigation against Johnson & Johnson’s well-known baby powder and Shower-to-Shower products used for feminine hygiene and can help you evaluate your potential referrals.



Premises Liability/ Inadequate Security:

Goza & Honnold also handles cases involving premises liability for failure to take adequate safety or security measures to protect guests and customers from potentially foreseeable injury, including from acts of violence. Sometimes, “random acts” of violence are actually foreseeable and preventable events. We were able to reach a successful eight-figure settlement involving a robbery at a retail establishment.

If you have a client who has been injured as a result of an unsafe condition in a retail store, hotel, healthcare facility, school, dormitory or recreational setting, please feel free to contact us.



Taxotere:

We are active in the Taxotere litigation, helping women who permanently lost their hair after receiving Taxotere for chemotherapy treatment. While all chemotherapy treatment involves risk, our clients were not informed they could develop permanent alopecia from use of Taxotere. With the Taxotere MDL well underway, we are still taking and investigating cases.

Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs):

In the PPI litigation, we are working with clients who developed kidney injuries after prolonged use of one or more PPIs. PPIs are a class of medications that reduce the amount of stomach acid produced in the stomach's lining. PPIs, such as Nexium, Prevacid, and Prilosec, can be prescribed or obtained over the counter and are used to treat acid reflux and to prevent stomach ulcers or injuries to the digestive tract. But PPIs can potentially cause serious side effects. Goza & Honnold is currently accepting cases for clients who have used PPIs and developed severe kidney conditions and can assist you if you have potential PPI cases.

Xarelto:

Goza & Honnold is still actively involved in the Xarelto litigation pending in the federal MDL and various state courts. Xarelto belongs to a class of drugs called New Oral Anticoagulants (NOACs) that make up the newest group of blood-thinning drugs. In its most important clinical trial, Xarelto was shown to cause an increased risk of major bleeds over standard therapies.

Brad Honnold is a member of the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in the Xarelto Multidistrict Litigation (MDL --- E.D. La.) and also a co-chair of the MDL discovery committee. Coming off a recent plaintiff's verdict in Pennsylvania state court, we are continuing to review new cases. We are currently preparing for trials around the country, including several spring trials in Philadelphia.

Roundup:

For decades, Monsanto's herbicide Roundup has been a leading product for home and commercial weed treatment. We became involved in litigation related to Roundup when we learned its active ingredient, glyphosate, has the potential to cause non-Hodgkin Lymphoma. Monsanto appears to have known for some time that glyphosate is a probable carcinogen and worked to conceal this information from the public.

People who sprayed Roundup on commercial farms, golf courses, and fields are most at risk based on exposure levels. We continue to evaluate these cases and would be happy to work with you on potential cases that come into your office.



*Goza & Honnold would like to Thank You
for the confidence you have placed in us and allowing us to work with your clients.
We appreciate your referrals and look forward to our continued relationship.*